

Western Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (WRTAC)

April 9th 2004

St. Patrick Hospital

Missoula, MT

11:30a – 3:30p

Attendance

See attached roster sheet.

The meeting was brought to order by Brad Pickhardt, MD, Chair at 11:45.

Review of minutes

The minutes from the January 9th, 2004 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

Committee Reports

Education and Finance

There is currently \$5570 remaining in the WRTAC education budget. There is one pending request for \$500 to hold a PHTLS course in Polson on June 8th & 9th. The committee approved allocating the money for the proposed course.

ATLS

The scheduled 2004 ATLS courses in Montana are full and the State will provide an additional course on November 5 & 6 in Billings. This information will be posted on the state webpage as soon the course is confirmed. An ATLS Instructor course is also planned sometime this year. The State is eventually hoping to regionalize the ATLS courses to better facilitate the needs of each region.

STN Course

The upgrade to the Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) Course will be available mid August. The course provides an excellent curriculum covering all aspects of care for the severely injured patient and can be adapted to meet the needs of the participants. The updated version includes a self-learning module with CDs so staff can review the material one-on-one without attending a course. The Montana Nurses Association credits for the STN course are complete and 18.1 credits were awarded.

TEAM

Kim Todd is continuing trauma consultation visits at 20 additional facilities in Montana. Each facility will receive a copy of the STN Trauma Nursing Book, the ACS Optimal Guidelines, and QI binder. For more information or to schedule your facility for a visit, contact Kim Todd at 444 – 3895.

For more information on scheduling either a PHTLS or STN course, contact John Bleicher at 329-5603.

Outreach Education:

The Rural Special Interest group of the Society of Trauma Nurses is discussing the idea of posting lectures on the STN website that will be available to anyone to use as a resource for a presented lecture, or for continuing education. As another option to outreach education is to provide a list of video links on the STN website that includes the dates and times of conferences/lectures held at bigger Level I or II facilities across the nation that any facility can video-link to. Recently, St. Patrick Hospital was able to video link into a trauma care class held at a Level I facility in Michigan. John Bleicher will keep the committee updated on these developments.

Future Grant Money

The grant writer is continuing to pull information together to submit grant proposals for the WRTAC. All facilities and EMS agencies will be asked to submit a letter of support on behalf of the WRTAC. These letters will be included in the grant proposal for added support. When looking at how the WRTAC will evaluate the effectiveness of the program, the committee agreed to look at the outcome of the following: 1. Time to rehabilitation, 2. Morbidity, 3. Mortality, 4. ISS and Death. The final proposal will be brought to the July WRTAC meeting for the committee to review.

Another idea for outreach education is to incorporate something similar to the STARS Van to take Medical, Trauma and Disaster training to each community in Montana.

The committee also discussed the need to collaborate with local DES personnel in the education and planning of the trauma system.

EMS / Medical Director's Report

The most recent information on the new EMS rules and regulations is located on the Board of Medical Examiners website at :

http://www.discoveringmontana.com/dli/bsd/license/bsd_boards/med_board/licenses/med/lic_emt.asp

Injury Prevention Subcommittee**Information Poster**

The committee discussed in more detail what to include on the injury prevention informational poster that will be included in each facility in Western Montana. The posters will include injury statistics for motor vehicle crashes, seatbelt and child safety seat use, falls, drowning, suicide, child abuse, sexual assault, recreation related – horse, ATV, motorcycle, skiing and alcohol and drug use. Information on how to contact agencies involved in injury prevention activities specific to each community will be listed on the poster as well State Injury Prevention Coordinator and state and local Safe Kids / Safe Community Coordinator information.

Alcohol and Drug Prevention

The committee discussed the benefits of performing brief bedside interventions for the patient who is involved in an alcohol and / or drug related injury. The studies from

Harborview have shown a 47% reduction in recidivism in subsequent alcohol related trauma for the population that received an intervention by hospital staff. The committee would like to pursue efforts to locate grant money to train hospital staff throughout Western Montana.

Car Seat Checks

Barrett Memorial Hospital is providing car seat checks by trained car seat technicians for all new mothers in the community.

Community Medical Center has hired two car seat technicians who work with each family to ensure their child is properly restrained before they leave the hospital.

State Report

Other Education

The EMS office is sponsoring grant funded Traumatic Brain Injury Instructor courses, one in each region; Missoula, Great Falls and Billings. For more information, contact Kim Todd.

GEMS – Geriatric Emergency Medicine Instructor courses were sponsored by EMSIP in Bozeman and Billings.

Rocky Mountain Rural Trauma Symposium will be held in Great Falls September 9th and 10th. The Trauma Coordinator Course will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 8th.

ATLS Courses for 2004:

Sept. 17 & 18, 2004 - Bozeman

November 5 & 6, 2004 - Billings

State Trauma Plan

The revised draft of the Montana Trauma System Plan has gone to the State Trauma Care Committee (STCC) for review. Kim will be requesting trauma registry data from the Level II Trauma facilities in 2004 and will submit the State data to the National Trauma Data Bank for benchmarking purposes. Under the new HIPPA privacy release rules, it is apparent there are various interpretations of what information can be disseminated for what purposes. RECOMMENDATION: Clear guidelines for privacy and release of information by Montana hospitals for the state trauma registry, to be developed by either STCC or the Montana Hospital Association.

Trauma Registry

The WRTAC facilities that currently are not using the trauma registry but want to start tracking data in 2004 may coordinate with another hospitals in their region to enter the trauma registry data for that facility. The facility that enters the data will sign a Business Associate Agreement and will keep all data in a separate collector database and will return reports to the facility on an agreed basis.

EMS Advisory Committee

The State is coordinating an EMS Advisory Committee to develop a plan on how to address EMS issues, i.e. retention and recruitment, education, medical direction, business management, central medical dispatch , etc.

ACS Committee

Kim Todd has been asked to participate with HRSA and the ACS Trauma System Committee, to develop benchmarks trauma systems. Congratulations Kim!

Injury Prevention Programs

A CDC grant for home fire visits and smoke alarm installation is available through the EMS office.

A recently developed a suicide hotline for Montana is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. The number is 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433). The State has received 10,000 for suicide prevention.

Risk Watch – unfortunately there will not be any further grant funding for this program through the EMS office.

Safe Kids / Safe Communities – the Montana Trial Lawyers Association has donated 500 helmets to give to Safe Kids groups in Montana.

As the state gears up for the next legislative session, the following safety initiatives will be proposed to the legislature Thom has developed press releases for each of the initiatives for WRTAC members to promoting through their local media:

- Open container bill
- Graduated licensing
- Helmet Law
- Primary Seatbelt

Area Trauma Plans Updates

Flathead / Lake / Mineral County

North Valley Hospital is remodeling and including a new CT. Kalispell Regional is doing lots of community outreach education. Lake County is developing a group to look into the recent alcohol deaths. Clark Fork Community Hospital is redesigning their emergency department. Mineral County Hospital has added an additional crash cart in the hospital.

Missoula / Ravalli

Community Medical Center is preparing for a Level III trauma consultation visit by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). They also have a new administrator for the facility. St. Patrick Hospital completed the re-verification visit by the ACS in March. Three deficiencies were identified; continuing medical education for physicians, physician attendance at trauma meetings and physician board certification.

SPH anticipates having all completed information submitted to the ACS within a few months to receive the re-verification.

Butte / Silverbow

St. James - the surgeons are providing as much on-call coverage as possible and an additional surgeon will be taking call beginning in July. Barrett Memorial is developing a plan with the county DES for HAZMAT, West Nile, flu epidemic planning. John Mootry, CEO of Barrett is continuing to present his "Trauma System in Montana" presentation. This presentation is available to anyone interested in taking into their community.

NEW BUSINESS

State Malpractice Insurance

In Montana, there have been three malpractice insurers. As of May, 2004 one of the three left Montana leaving only two, of which one is refusing to cover general surgeons. This is resulting in a crisis for many physicians around the state. Dr. Pickhardt asked the committee for their support to have the next legislative session address the State Malpractice Insurance issue.

Future Goals for the WRTAC

The committee members discussed the direction the WRTAC should go in the next year:

1. Continue grant process for regional education
2. Develop QI through the State registry

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.